after that he must be loosed a little sea-
son.
"And I saw thrones, and they sat
upon them, and judgment was given
unto them: and I saw the souls of them
that were beheaded for the witness of Je-
sus, and for the word of God, and which
had not worshiped the beast, neither his
image, neither had received his mark
upon their foreheads, or in their hands;
and they lived and reigned with Christ a
thousand years.
"But the rest of the dead lived not
again until the thousand years were fin-
ished. This is the first resurrection.
"Blessed and holy is he that hath part
in the first resurrection: on such the sec-
ond death hath no power, but they shall
be priests of God and of Christ, and shall
reign with him a thousand years.
"And when the thousand years are
expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his
prison,
"And shall go out to deceive the na-
tions which are in the four quarters of
the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather
them together to battle: the number of
whom is as the sand of the sea.
"And they went up on the breadth of
the earth, and compassed the camp of
the saints about, and the beloved city:
and fire came down from God out of
heaven, and devoured them.
"And the devil that deceived them
was cast into the lake of fire and brim-
stone, where the beast and false prophet
are, and shall be tormented day and
night forever and ever."
In the words which I have read, we
have perhaps as much revealed in regard
to the Millennium, as we will find in any
of the revelations which God has given
to man. We can understand from these
words that a time is to come in which the
devil will have no power to tempt the
children of men, and this happy period
will last for one thousand years. There
never has been a period since the cre-
ation, but what the devil has had more
or less power or influence over the inhabi-
tants of our world. Such has been the
case from the day that he came before
our first parents in the Garden of Eden,
until the present. We have an account,
however, of a period of time when he had
not much dominion, that was in the days
of the flood. After the wicked were de-
stroyed, there were eight persons in the
ark, sailing upon the waters, over whom,
I presume, Satan had very little power.
With the exception of this short period,
in which the earth was submerged and
the ark was sailing upon the waters, the
devil has exercised power over the hearts
of the children of men in all ages and
countries. There seems to be a very
great amount of evil in existence at the
present time, for people are being con-
tinually stirred up to commit all manner
of abomination—robbery, murder, blas-
pheming the name of the Deity, and the
violation of every command that he has
ever given. There is a time, however,
to come, when this earth will be depop-
ulated of the wicked to the same extent
as it once was by the waters of the flood.
The waters then made an entire sweep
of the wicked, they were laid low, and
the earth was cleansed. We might, in
other words, call it a baptism of the earth
by water, or a cleansing of it from sin.
You know that baptism is intended for
the remission of sins; it is the ordinance
through which our heavenly Father for-
gives the sins of those who believe in his
Son Jesus Christ. The promise of for-
giveness, however, is on condition that
we believe in the atonement made by the